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Publication date:
1986

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Citation for published version (APA):

Kleijnen, J. P. C., & van Groenendaal, W. J. H. (1986). *Regression analysis of factorial designs with sequential replication*. (Research memorandum / Tilburg University, Department of Economics; Vol. FEW 215). Unknown Publisher.

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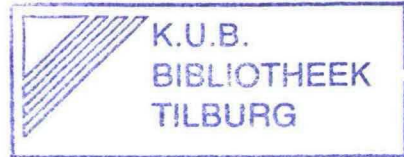
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RESEARCH MEMORANDUM



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REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF FACTORIAL DESIGNS
WITH SEQUENTIAL REPLICATION

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518.9

January 1986

Keywords: Variance heterogeneity; Weighted Least Squares; pilot sample;
Stein estimator; iterative procedure; heuristic.

REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF FACTORIAL DESIGNS WITH SEQUENTIAL REPLICATION

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ABSTRACT

In experimental designs with unequal response variances, the number of replications per factor-level combination may be selected such that the variances of the average responses become equal, i.e., combinations with high variability are more often replicated. Then Weighted Least Squares becomes identical to Ordinary Least Squares applied to the average responses. If the response variances are unknown, they can be estimated through replication. These estimated response variances yield estimates of the number of replications required to realize approximately equal variances per average response. This sequential procedure is evaluated through a Monte Carlo experiment.

1. INTRODUCTION

We consider classical experimental designs - especially 2^{k-p} factorial designs (with integers $k > 1$ and $p > 0$) - in which we sequentially determine the number of replications \underline{m}_i (with $i=1, \dots, n$ where n is the number of factor-level combinations, i.e., in factorials $n = 2^{k-p}$). In other words, during the experiment we analyze the responses y_{ij} ($j=1, \dots, \underline{m}_i$) and use their variance estimators s_i^2 in a stopping rule. Once we stop the experiment we analyze its data, applying Least Squares. In the foregoing we underlined random variables, because the random character of the number of replications (\underline{m}_i) is essential and becomes explicit in this notation. (We further use the term "estimate"

becomes explicit in this notation. (We further use the term "estimate" to denote the value of an "estimator".)

The literature investigates stopping rules primarily in situations with one or two populations ($n=1,2$); see the textbooks by Govindarajulu (1981) and Wetherill (1975) and also Kleijnen (1986). In experimental designs the number of replications must often be prespecified. An important exception, however, are simulation experiments, i.e., experiments with a computer model (or "code") of some real system (for instance, a nuclear reactor, a company, an insect population). In simulation experiments all observations are obtained successively. Therefore sequential statistical procedures are certainly relevant to simulation.

We further assume that the response variances σ_i^2 may differ substantially. For example, Kleijnen, Van den Burg, Van der Ham (1979, p. 60) report a 2^{6-2} experiment where s_i^2 ranges between 64 and 93,228. Variance heterogeneity is further discussed in Kleijnen (1985).

2. KNOWN VARIANCES σ_i^2

In the present section we assume that the response variances σ_i^2 are known. Intuitively it seems wise to obtain more replications of those experimental conditions that have high variability. More specifically, if we take

$$m_i = c \sigma_i^2 \quad (i=1, \dots, n) \quad (2.1)$$

where c is a (common) positive constant such that m_i becomes integer, then

$$\text{var}(\bar{y}_i) = \frac{1}{c} \quad (2.2)$$

where $\bar{y}_i = \frac{1}{m_i} \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} y_{ij}$.

We can analyze the experimental data, applying Weighted Least Squares (WLS) to the individual responses y_{ij} . It is simple to prove that the WLS estimate $\tilde{\beta}$ follows from

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ m_i (\bar{y}_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \right\} \quad (2.3)$$

The Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimate $\hat{\beta}$ follows from

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n \{ m_i (\bar{y}_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \} \quad (2.4)$$

Under condition (2.1), or $m_i/\sigma_i^2 = c$, the WLS estimate follows from

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{y}_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \quad (2.5)$$

In general, WLS gives little weight to responses with high variability; OLS gives more weight to conditions replicated often. Now condition (2.1) means that the optimal WLS estimator based on the individual responses is identical to the OLS estimator based on the average responses while ignoring the number of replications on which those averages are based. Computationally this OLS estimator is simpler, so that we shall concentrate on the OLS estimator $\hat{\beta}$ following from (2.5).

3. ESTIMATING σ_i^2 and m_i

Because the response variances are unknown, we have to estimate σ_i^2 and hence m_i in eq. (2.1). Many estimation schemes are conceivable: two-stage (Stein estimators), multistage, sequential schemes. We concentrate on the following sequential procedure.

(1) We start with a pilot sample of $m_i = m_0$ responses from each of the n populations (or combinations), and compute

$$\underline{s}_i^2 = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_i} (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_i)^2}{(m_i - 1)} \quad (i=1, \dots, n) \quad (3.1)$$

In the Monte Carlo experiment of Section 5 we take $m_0 = 4, 9$, and 25.

(2) We use these estimators \underline{s}_i^2 to obtain the estimators of the required number of replications. Straightforward application of eq. (2.1) yields:

$$\hat{m}_i = \left\lceil \frac{\underline{s}_i^2}{\min_{1 \leq i' \leq n} (\underline{s}_{i'}^2)} m_0 \right\rceil \quad (3.2)$$

where $[x]$ denotes the integer closest to x . A refinement of eq. (3.2) is as follows. If the response variances differ greatly, then impractically many replications would be taken from the population with the maximum variance. Therefore we define the ratio

$$r = \frac{\max_i (\underline{s}_i^2)}{\min_i (\underline{s}_i^2)} \quad (3.3)$$

and in order to control

$$\max_i (\hat{m}_i) = r m_0 \quad (3.4)$$

we replace m_0 in eq. (3.2) - not in eq. (3.1) - by the value 1, iff r is "big":

$$\underline{m}_0 = 1 \text{ if } r > r_{\max} \quad (3.5)$$

In the Monte Carlo experiment we take $r_{\max} = 3000$. This refinement means that, if r is big, then for the population with the smallest variance estimate \underline{s}_1^2 , we compute the average \bar{y}_1 from only 1 replication; its va-

riance, however, we compute from all replications. In this way, we obtain the most accurate variance estimator possible, while we still apply OLS to average responses with approximately constant variances.

(3) For each population with $\hat{m}_i > m_0$ we obtain one new response (i.e., our procedure is sequential, not two-stage or multi-stage). We use all available responses to re-estimate σ_i^2 : we replace eq. (3.1) (with a deterministic $m_i = m_0$) by

$$s_i^2(\underline{m}_{it}) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{\underline{m}_{it}} (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_i(\underline{m}_{it}))^2}{(\underline{m}_{it} - 1)} \quad (3.6)$$

where \underline{m}_{it} denotes the number of responses from population i available after iteration t ($t=1,2,\dots,T$); \hat{m} denotes the number of responses necessary to realize constant response variances (see eq. 3.2) and

$$\bar{y}_i(\hat{m}_{it}) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{\hat{m}_{it}} y_{ij}}{\hat{m}_{it}} \quad (i=1,\dots,n) \quad (3.7)$$

(4) We return to step (2) until (for the first time) the desired number of replications \hat{m} does not exceed the available number m , for all populations:

$$\forall i: \hat{m}_{it} < \underline{m}_{it} \quad (3.8)$$

We let \underline{T} denote the minimum number of iterations for which (3.8) holds. Once we stop the experiment, we analyze the experimental data, as described in the next section.

4. REGRESSION ANALYSIS

We estimate the response for population i from $\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}}$ responses; see eq. (3.7) with t replaced by \underline{T} . (Remember: if $\underline{r} > r_{\max}$ then $\exists i: \hat{m}_{i\underline{T}} = 1$.) From these averages we derive the OLS point estimator $\hat{\underline{\beta}}$:

$$\hat{\underline{\beta}} = (\bar{X}'\bar{X})^{-1} \bar{X}' \bar{Y} (\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}}) \quad (4.1)$$

where \bar{X} is the $n \times Q$ matrix of Q independent variables obtained from the $N \times Q$ matrix X by eliminating all identical rows in X , where

$$\underline{N} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{m}_{i\underline{T}} \quad (4.2)$$

We approximate the standard errors of $\hat{\underline{\beta}}$ as follows; also see eq. (2.2). Let \hat{D} be a diagonal matrix with the following elements on the main-diagonal:

$$d_{ii} \equiv \frac{1}{\hat{c}_i} \equiv \hat{\text{var}} \left(\bar{y}_{i(\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}})} \right) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}}} (y_{ij} - \bar{y}_i)^2}{(\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}} - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}}} \quad (i=1, \dots, n) \quad (4.3)$$

where m and \hat{m} denote the available and the desired number of responses respectively ($m > \hat{m}$); the first factor is the estimator of $\text{var}(\bar{y})$ that uses all available information; the second factor corresponds to the number of responses on which \bar{y} is based. Eq. (4.1) yields:

$$\hat{\underline{\Omega}}_{\hat{\underline{\beta}}} = (\bar{X}'\bar{X})^{-1} \bar{X}' \hat{D} \bar{X} (\bar{X}'\bar{X})^{-1} \quad (4.4)$$

If our sequential procedure works as expected, then $1/\hat{c}_i \approx 1/\underline{c} \equiv \underline{s}^{-2}$ where (see eqs. 4.3 and 3.6)

$$\underline{s}^{-2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n s_i^2 (\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}})/\hat{m}_{i\underline{T}}}{n} \quad (4.5)$$

so that eq. (4.4) reduces to

$$\hat{\Omega}_{\beta} \approx \bar{s}^2 (\bar{X}'\bar{X})^{-1} \quad (4.6)$$

And if \bar{X} is orthogonal, then the estimators $\hat{\beta}_q$ are uncorrelated. If \bar{X} is a 2^{k-p} design, then $\text{var}(\hat{\beta}_q)$ becomes a constant, namely \bar{s}^2/n . The square roots of the main-diagonal elements of $\hat{\Omega}_{\beta}$ are the standard errors of $\hat{\beta}_q$; we denote these standard errors by $\hat{\sigma}_q$ ($q=1, \dots, Q$).

To obtain confidence intervals for β_q we use Student's t statistic. Kleijnen, Cremers, Van Belle (1985) investigated different degrees of freedom ν , namely $\min(m_1-1)$, $\sum(m_{1i}-1)$ and infinity (so that t becomes standard normal). In sequential experiments $\sum(m_{1i}-1)$ is high; therefore we restrict ourselves to $\min(m_{1i}-1) = m_0 - 1 = \nu_1$ and $\nu_2 = \infty$ (so that ν becomes non-stochastic). In the next section we investigate whether the statistic

$$t_{\nu, q} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_q - \beta_q}{\hat{\sigma}_q} \quad (q=1, \dots, Q) \quad (4.7)$$

behaves like a Student t statistic. To study $t_{\nu, q}$ we use Monte Carlo experimentation.

5. MONTE CARLO INPUTS

We use nearly the same inputs as did Kleijnen, Cremers, Van Belle (1985). So we have 4 different \bar{X} matrices:

Case 1: \bar{X} is a 16×13 matrix, namely a 2^{6-2} design including 6 main effects, 6 two-factor interactions and a grand mean β_0 .

Case 2: \bar{X} is an 8×4 matrix following from a 2^3 design (with 3 main effects). In case 2 \bar{X} is a submatrix of \bar{X} in case 1.

Case 3: \bar{X} is a 4×3 matrix following from a 2^2 design. \bar{X} is again a submatrix of \bar{X} in case 1.

Case 4: \bar{X} is again a 4×3 matrix as in case 3; however, \bar{X} is non-orthogonal. Kleijnen et al. (1985) studied only the first 3 cases.

We combine the above 4 matrices with different degrees of heterogeneity of response variance, measured - as in Kleijnen et al. (1985, p. 88) - by

$$H = \frac{\max_i (\sigma_i^2) - \min_i (\sigma_i^2)}{\min_i (\sigma_i^2)} \quad (5.1)$$

We fix H at the values 0, 4, and 11.84. Kleijnen et al. (1985) varied H between 0 and 1,458; the latter value, however, means that $\hat{\mu}_i$ may be so high that computer time becomes prohibitive. The individual σ_i^2 values are shown in the appendix.

Besides \bar{X} and the diagonal matrix Ω_y with elements σ_i^2 , we must specify β . We use the β values of Kleijnen et al. (1985, p. 95). The precise values of β do not affect the interpretation of the Monte Carlo experiment, so that we refer to the appendix.

We study different sizes of the pilot-sample m_0 , namely 4, 9 and 25. Kleijnen et al. (1985, p. 89) varied $m_1 = m$ between 2 and 25; the value 2, however, gave bad results. We further take $r_{\max} = 3000$ in eq. (3.5), which is so high that r never exceeds r_{\max} . We repeat each Monte Carlo situation (specified by \bar{X} , Ω_y , β , and m_0) 150 times, since Kleijnen et al. (1985) found that 150 repetitions reduce noise so much that clear patterns emerge from the Monte Carlo experiment.

We use the same multiplicative random number generator as in Kleijnen et al. (1985, p. 96). (Even though the ICL 2960 has been replaced by a VAX 785, the NAG generator was maintained.) Each of the 4 "cases" (combined with different degrees of variance heterogeneity) starts with the same random number seed. Since the random number streams get out of step, the dependence between cases is probably weak (anyhow, in our analysis we do not need to assume independence).

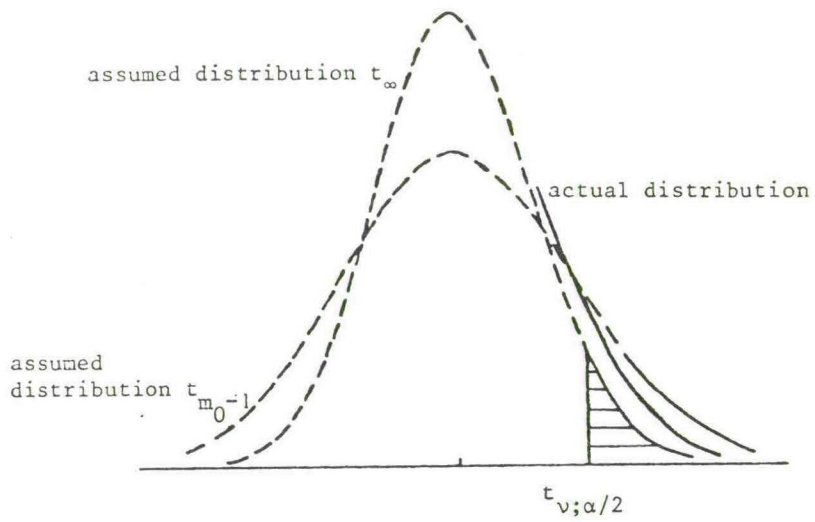


Fig. 1. Assumed versus actual tails

6. MONTE CARLO OUTPUT

We first repeat some situations also investigated in Kleijnen et al. (1985), in order to verify the correctness of our computer program. We also checked that the estimators of β remain unbiased.

As Kleijnen et al. (1985, p. 90) did, we derive two-sided confidence intervals for β_q , now using t_v with $v = v_1 = \min_i m_i T - 1 = m_0 - 1$ and $v = v_2 = \infty$ respectively. We again test the tails of the resulting t_v distribution [see eq. (4.7) where $\hat{\sigma}_q \equiv \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_q)$]:

$$P \left\{ \frac{\hat{\beta}_q - \beta_q}{\hat{\sigma}_q} \right\} > t_{v,q; \alpha/2} = \hat{\alpha} \quad (q=1, \dots, Q) \quad (6.1)$$

where $t_{v,q;\alpha/2}$ denotes the tabulated $1 - \alpha/2$ quantile of Student's t_v with $v = v_1$ and $v = v_2$ respectively. We estimate $\hat{\alpha}$ from the Monte Carlo experiment (see next paragraph), and formulate 2 slightly different null-hypotheses:

$$H_0: E(\hat{\alpha}) = \alpha \text{ versus } H_1: E(\hat{\alpha}) \neq \alpha \quad (6.2)$$

and

$$H'_0: E(\hat{\alpha}) < \alpha \text{ versus } H'_1: E(\hat{\alpha}) > \alpha. \quad (6.3)$$

H_0 requires a two-sided test, while H'_0 corresponds to a one-sided test.

The test statistic is the binomial variable \hat{p} based on 150 observations (Monte Carlo repetitions). Under H_0 we know that $E(\hat{p}) = \alpha$ where α is defined in eq. (6.1). We approximate the binomial distribution by the normal distribution $N(\hat{p}, \hat{p}(1-\hat{p})/150)$. Since we have Q parameters β , we apply the Bonferroni inequality, i.e., we test H_0 and H'_0 with a type I error rate of $0.05/Q$ (so that the experimentwise error rate is 0.05 at most). For α in eq. (6.1) (the error rate used to derive a confidence interval per parameter β_q) we use 1%, 5%, and 10%, as did Kleijnen et al. (1985).

Table I

Testing the tail of the t_{ν} distribution; $H_0: E(\hat{\alpha}) = \alpha$.

	$\alpha = 1\%$		$\alpha = 5\%$		$\alpha = 10\%$	
	$\nu = \nu_1$	$\nu = \infty$	$\nu = \nu_1$	$\nu = \infty$	$\nu = \nu_1$	$\nu = \infty$
C1H11M04*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C1H04M04	*	*		*		*
C1H00M04		*		*		*
C2H10M04	*	*		*	*	*
C2H04M04	*		*	*	*	
C2H00M04	*	*	*	*		*
C3H10M04			*	*	*	*
C3H04M04	*	*		*		*
C3H00M04		*		*		*
C1H11M09	*	*	*			
C1H04M09	*	*	*		*	
C1H00M09	*	*	*			
C2H10M09	*					
C2H04M09	*	*	*		*	
C2H00M09	*			*	*	
C3H10M09	*	*		*		
C3H04M09	*		*			
C3H00M09	*					
C1H11M25	*	*	*	*	*	
C1H04M25	*	*	*		*	*
C1H00M25	*	*				
C2H10M25						
C2H04M25	*	*		*		*
C2H00M25	*					
C3H10M25	*	*			*	
C3H04M25						
C3H00M25	*		*		*	
C4H10M04	*	*	*	*	*	*
C4H04M04	*	*		*		*
C4H00M04	*	*		*		*
C4H10M09	*					
C4H04M09	*					*
C4H00M09	*		*			
C4H10M25	*	*	*	*		
C4H04M25						
C4H00M25	*					

* Notation: C1 refers to case 1 of Section 5; H11 means $H \approx 11$ in eq. (5.1); M04 means a pilot sampling $m_0 = 4$.

Table II

Testing the tail of the t_v distribution; $H_0': E(\hat{\alpha}) < \alpha$.

	$\alpha = 1\%$		$\alpha = 5\%$		$\alpha = 10\%$	
	$v = v_1$	$v = \infty$	$v = v_1$	$v = \infty$	$v = v_1$	$v = \infty$
C1H11M04*		*		*		*
C1H04M04		*		*		*
C1H00M04		*		*		*
C2H10M04		*		*	*	*
C2H04M04						
C2H00M04		*		*		*
C3H10M04		*		*		*
C3H04M04		*		*		*
C3H00M04		*		*	*	*
C1H11M09						
C1H04M09						*
C1H00M09						*
C2H10M09						
C2H04M09						*
C2H00M09		*		*	*	*
C3H10M09						*
C3H04M09						*
C3H00M09						
C1H11M25						*
C1H04M25						
C1H00M25						
C2H10M25						
C2H04M25		*		*		*
C2H00M25						
C3H10M25						
C3H04M25				*		
C3H00M25						
C4H10M04		*		*		*
C4H04M04		*		*		*
C4H00M04		*		*		*
C4H10M09						
C4H04M09						*
C4H00M09						*
C4H10M25						
C4H04M25						
C4H00M25						

* Notation: C1 refers to case 1 of Section 5; H11 means $H \approx 11$ in eq. (5.1); M04 means a pilot sample $m_0 = 4$.

The binomial test results in Tables I and II. We interpret these tables as follows; also see Fig. 1. Table I shows many asterisks-denoting rejection of $H_0: E(\hat{\alpha}) = \alpha$ - even if the pilot sample is big ($m_0 = 25$). The next question then is: in which direction does $\hat{\alpha}$ deviate from α ? Table II shows that if we use the standard normal distribution (or $t_{\infty; \alpha/2}$) then we accept $H'_1: E(\hat{\alpha}) > \alpha$ (the smaller the pilot sample m_0 , the higher $\hat{\alpha}$ is). Fig. 1 demonstrates that such a high $\hat{\alpha}$ means a "fat" tail. Such a tail implies that we reject the true value β_q "too often", i.e. more often than the nominal α suggests. In other words, our confidence intervals around $\hat{\beta}_q$ are too tight. Instead of the normal distribution we can use the Student distribution with degrees of freedom $v_1 = \min_i(m_{iT} - 1) = m_0 - 1$. Obviously we have $t_{v_1; \alpha} > t_{\infty; \alpha}$ so that our confidence intervals become less tight (conservative intervals). Consequently we no longer reject the true value β_q "too often", i.e., $\hat{\alpha}$ decreases and no longer do we reject $H'_0: E(\hat{\alpha}) < \alpha$. Using v_1 degrees of freedom does not yield conservative confidence intervals, if we use small sample sizes and a "high" nominal α ($\alpha = 0.10$).

Note that we found that the estimated variances of the average responses (see eq. 4.3) are indeed approximately constant. The averaged estimated variance \bar{s}^2 (see eq. 4.5) has an empirical distribution (computed from 150 replications) which is skew with a long tail to the right. As we may expect, the variability of \bar{s}^2 increases, as the pilot-sample size m_0 decreases.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

We examined a heuristic sequential procedure for determining the number of replications per factor-level combination, such that the variances of the average responses become approximately constant. The resulting Least Squares estimator $\hat{\beta}$ remains unbiased. Confidence intervals around $\hat{\beta}$ (two-sided intervals) are not exact, even if the pilot sample size is as high as 25. These intervals are too tight if we use the standard normal variable. These intervals become conservative, if we use the Student statistic with degrees of freedom equal to $\min_i(m_{iT} - 1) = m_0 - 1$ (unless the pilot sample is small and the nominal α is high).

We concentrated on a purely sequential approach using as many responses y as possible, when estimating means and variances. Many variations on this approach are conceivable which seem less efficient but might have better coverage (true type I or α error). Also see Section 3.

We did not discuss computational issues. For example, we saved all individual responses (not only sums of responses and squared responses) because in the sequential procedure we sometimes throw away responses when estimating the means (namely when $\hat{m}_{iT} < \underline{m}_{iT}$; we estimate the variances from all \underline{m}_{iT} responses).

A well-known disadvantage of sequential procedures is that it is impossible to know how much computer time will be needed to execute the total number of runs $\underline{N} = \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{m}_{iT}$. Moreover, if the experiment has $R (> 2)$ types of response, each type with its own variance, then our procedure needs adjustment (we might replace eq. 2.1 by $m_i = \max_r c \sigma_{ir}^2$ - where $r = 1, \dots, R$). If the total computer time is prespecified, then the sequential procedure might be replaced by a fixed sample procedure (with $m_i = m_0$) accounting for unequal variances; see Kleijnen (1985).

We examined two-sided confidence intervals for β . On hindsight it is obvious that with negligible extra computer time we could also have studied one-sided confidence intervals for β .

APPENDIX: DETAILS OF MONTE CARLO INPUT

In this appendix we add some details not already mentioned in the main text. Most values are taken from Kleijnen et al. (1985).

Case 1: $\beta' = (-1.42, -0.769, 13.4, -11.508, 3.5, -1.375, 140.918, 15.391, 0.046, 281.098, 21.25, 11.875, -49.483).$

$H = 0: \sigma_i^2 = 1$ for all i .

$H = 4: \sigma_i^2 = (4, 4.5, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.5, 14, 14.5, 16, 18, 19.5, 20).$

$H = 11.84: \sigma_i^2 = (1, 2, 3, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 7.5, 8, 9, 9.5, 10, 11, 12, 12.84).$

Case 2: $\beta' = (-1.42, -0.769, 13.44, -11.508)$.

$H = 0$: $\sigma_i^2 = 1$ for all i .

$H = 4$: $\sigma_i^2 = (4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20)$.

$H = 10.83$: $\sigma_i^2 = (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11.83)$.

Case 3: $\beta' = (1, 1, 1)$.

$H = 0$: $\sigma_i^2 = 1$ for all i .

$H = 4$: $\sigma_i^2 = (4, 10, 16, 20)$.

$H = 10.38$: $\sigma_i^2 = (1, 4, 8, 11.38)$.

Case 4: See case 3 for β and σ_i^2 .

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Monte Carlo experiment was programmed and executed by A. Van der Kemp and M. Rutten, students in the School of Econometrics of our university.

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